

INDEXA

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Midway Atoll DXpedition—AH4/AH0W

Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG, had a dream—a dream to activate the first-ever team DXpedition from Midway. As often happens, dreams collide.

During World War II, critical struggles for control of the central Pacific revolved around Midway Island. Naval aviators, embattled in those struggles, remember with fondness the atoll's indigenous population, the "gooney" bird. Contemporary guardians of the island share the veterans' protective attitude towards the entertaining birds.

Protection of the waddling, often hilarious, yet graceful fliers took precedence over the DXpedition when U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials denied permission to operate from the island. How could these officials deliver a negative verdict when Arizona's own political big gun, U.S. Senator John McCain, appealed on behalf of the DXpedition?

Midway's curators argued that antennas were incompatible with an environment destined to become an ecological preserve—a home to endangered species and 1.2 million gooney birds. Public visitors would have to be controlled and limited pri-



Six big guns pose at Midway. The one in the back was used as part of the gunnery during the Battle of Midway in World War II. (left to right, front) Andy, UA3AB; Patrick, NH6UY; (left to right, rear) Frank, W2UE; Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG; and Jack, WA7LNW.

marily to ecologists and competition fishermen.

Fortunately, somewhere between the interest shown by Senator McCain, a decorated naval hero, and much help from Bill Myerson, NH6D, who had frequented Midway on official business, U.S. Navy officers agreed to approve the Midway DXpedition.

The struggles and negotiations of

more than a year paid off. Frank's dream was fulfilled and the August, 1996, AH4/AH0W Midway DXpedition finally became a reality.

The rush to get ready

Suddenly, the AH4/AH0W team was left with just a few weeks to round-up equipment for the flight.

They had the distinction of being the first "public visitors" in over 100 years to board a flight to Midway.

On August 18th, they embarked on a four-hour flight from Lihue, Kauai, to Sand Island, Midway.

The operating team

The team, all members of the Central Arizona DX Association, included: Jack Reed, WA7LNW; Frank Schottke, W2UE; Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB; and Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG.

Operating equipment

The team took two Force-12 C-3 antennas, a Cushcraft A3WS, and two HF2V verticals that fed into three HF stations operating simultaneously.

In addition, there was a full-fledged satellite station operated by Patrick Guerin, NH6UY, of Honolulu.

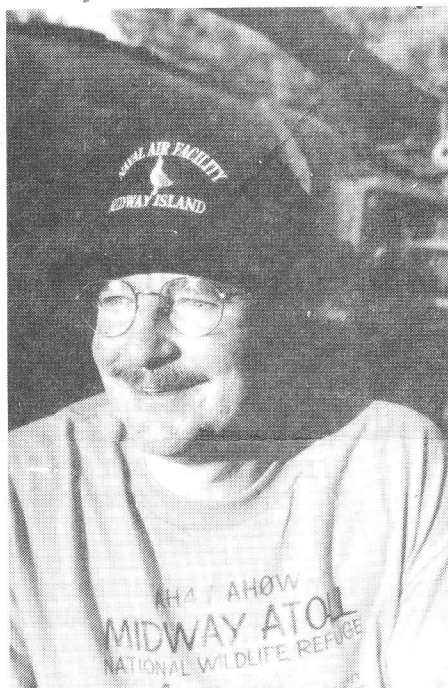
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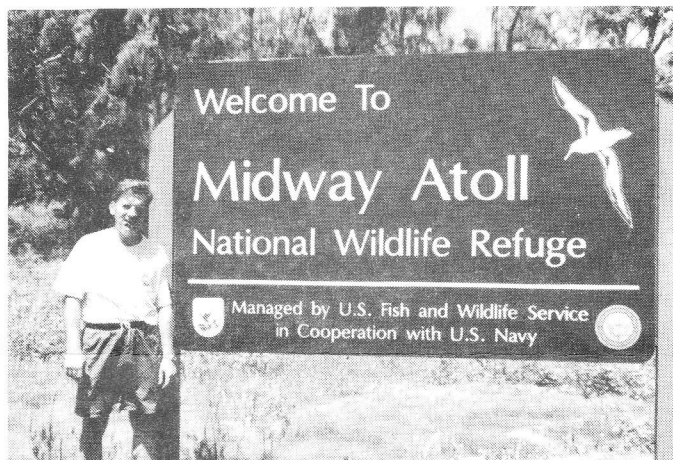
OCC Becomes Silent Key
From Hong Kong to Thailand
Alternate Staff Member—W7KEU

Still a Best Seller—DXpeditioning Basics
New Life Members
Extra Help

Midway.....from previous page



Jack, WA7LNW, Chief RTTY Op



Andy, UA3AB



Andy, UA3AB, working Europeans



Frank, W2UE, working the CW pileups

All of the equipment, including large quantities of coax and connectors, was left behind as a donation for future use by legitimate DXpeditioners and testers.

Goals and accomplishments

The team operated for a full week, netting 15,000 contacts on CW, SSB, and RTTY.

One of the top priorities was to make headway into Europe where, according to information released just before the DXpedition, Midway ranked #5 on the needs list. About 40% of the total contacts were with Europe. Team

members report that propagation to Europe was particularly strong. Typically, there were two openings to Europe nearly every day of the operation.

Most of the contacts to EU were made on 40, 30, and 20 meters. Openings to the USA and Japan were nearly continuous on all HF bands; however, several attempts to operate on 12 and 10 meters proved useless.

Thanks to all supporters

The team wishes to thank INDEXA for its generous help with this project.

In final, AH4/AH0W also thanks the many DXers who were there to work Midway, thereby making the project that much more exciting and rewarding.

Dedication

The AH4/AH0W team respectfully dedicates the AH4/AH0W DXpedition to the memory of all those, of every nationality, whose lives were lost in ultimate sacrifice during the Pacific battles of World War II.

Big gun goes silent

The Oklahoma Communications Center is now a SK.

The owner, Craig Boyer, AH9B, has sold the business in order to devote more time to his other business interest.

We, at INDEXA, must give a big "thanks" to Craig. Like his father, Craig provided needed support and equipment for DXpeditions. His efforts gave many amateurs a "new one."

We should remember "OCC" as a big gun in support of all amateurs.

Change of QTH From Hong Kong to Thailand

For several years, Philip Weaver, VS6CT, has provided many amateurs, worldwide, with a contact from Hong Kong.

Phil retired from the Search and Rescue group he formed and, after a worldwide vacation, he took up residence in Thailand. He will travel a bit more this year and soon will build a station at his new home.

He has chosen to use his original call in Thailand and will sign as HS0/G4JMB.

The new address is: Apt. 8A-PP House, 25/1 Soi St. Louis 2, South Sathorn Rd., Yannawa, Bangkok 10120, Thailand.

Keith, W7KEU Alternate Staff Member

INDEXA welcomes Keith Retzer, W7KEU, of Pittsburg, KS, as an alternate staff member.

Keith filled-in at different times when one of the boys couldn't take his turn on the Information Session.

Time passed, he fell right in with the procedures. Since he has filled a need very well, he was "volunteered" early this year.

DXpeditioning Basics Still on the best seller list

The star of day hasn't been too cooperative lately and until Ol' Sol decides to get decked out in a wardrobe of new sunspots, many DXers have unwanted time on their hands.

If you've been procrastinating, now's the time to ready yourself for those exciting operating adventures that are just around the corner. It's time to prepare for those pileups by reading *DXpeditioning Basics* by Wayne Mills, N7NG.

If you're not convinced and your motivation needs another boost, here's a second opinion:

A letter dated March 16, 1994:
INDEXA c/o W4WMQ

Dear Murphy:

We have received the copies of *DXpeditioning Basics* from the printer. They look very good.

ARRL is pleased to be co-publisher with INDEXA. Author Wayne Mills, N7NG, has identified potential problem

areas for DXpeditioners, and he tells them how to deal effectively with those problems.

Some time ago, the ARRL Board of Directors expressed concern over the ethics and practices of DXpeditions. Wayne speaks with authority to these issues—and more, and what he says is in agreement with the sentiments of the League leadership.

I trust that those who read *DXpeditioning Basics* will put Wayne's advice into practice.

Sincerely and with 73,

Charles L. Hutchinson, K8CH
Membership Services Manager

DXpeditioning Basics is published jointly by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the International DX Association (INDEXA). It is available postpaid in the U.S. for \$5, from INDEXA, P. O. Box 607, Rock Hill, SC 29731. For foreign airmail, add an additional U.S. \$5.

New Life Members.....

WB5LHY,	AB4JI,	JA2CZB,	N4AA,	KM6HG,
CT1AES,	JF0CSK,	N1KCE,	and,	HL2IOU

Extra Help Provided By.....

W5VCS,	KE1CX,	DL9FAZ,	KI5VW,	N9KVI,
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N7KZJ,	W3DR,	N7QCN,	WB9WHQ,	CT1AES,
DJ9ZB,	RU3PZ,	YF8XM,	PY2NY,	DL2BWH,
WK3W,	HL2IOU,	EA5YJ,	and,	N6EK

INDEXA Ballot 1996-1997

Please vote for the nominees as approved by the Directors or use the write-in space if desired.

Office	Nominee	Yes	No	Write-In
President	W4WMQ			
Vice-President	K4MQG			
Secretary-Treasurer	W4UNP			
Directors	1-Year			
	ZL1AMO			
	VK6RU			
	DJ9ZB			

All terms of office are either 1-, 2-, or 3-years. The 2- and 3-year terms are not elected this year. Please mail ballot to the Election Officer:

Bill Jennings, W4UNP
630 Whitepine Drive
Catawba, SC 29704 USA

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First Class Mail

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